



# SENATE BILL 188: Bd. of Architects/Interior Designers.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	April 21, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Krawiec, Galey, Barnes	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Bill Patterson
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 188<sup>1</sup> would make two substantive changes:*

- *Provide for the registration of interior designers and give a registered interior designer the authority to sign and seal interior technical submissions to a State or local governmental entity for the purpose of obtaining permits for an interior construction project.*
- *Set the fee amounts for registration of interior designers and increase the maximum fee amounts that may be imposed by The North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The NC Board of Architecture has licensed architects and regulated the practice of architecture for decades. The practice of interior design is not currently regulated under State law and interior designers are not authorized to sign and seal technical submissions to obtain building permits.

G.S. 83A-4 sets the maximum fee amounts the Board of Architecture may impose. The fee ceiling has not increased since approximately 1985. The actual fee amounts are set by the Board through the administrative rules process. The current fee amounts are at the statutory maximum amount, and they have been at that amount since 1992.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 188 would expand the scope of The NC Board of Architecture to include the practice of interior design and the registration of interior designers. The bill changes the name of the Board and the membership and laws governing the Board to recognize this expansion. The bill would not prohibit a person from practicing interior design without a registration, but it would prohibit a person from using the title "registered interior designer" or representing to the public that the person is registered. The bill would give a *registered* interior designer authority to sign and seal interior technical submissions to a governmental agency for a building permit. The bill defines the scope of practice of interior design and does not apply to interior decorating services. A more extensive summary of the bill may be found on the NCGA website: [Summary of Senate Bill 188, 2nd Edition](#).

The bill amends G.S. 83A-4 (page 4 of the bill) to increase the maximum fee amounts that may be imposed by the Board, and it sets the fee amounts the Board may impose to register an interior designer.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill is effective when it becomes law and applies to applications received on or after January 2, 2022.

*Cindy Avrette, counsel to Senate Finance Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.*

<sup>1</sup> As introduced, this bill was identical to H223, as introduced by Reps. Stevens, Riddell, Saine, Hardister, which is currently in House Regulatory Reform.

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